

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are presently active; no claims have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, and 11 have been amended by way of the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found at least in paragraph [0017] of the specification. Therefore, no new subject matter has been introduced by the present amendment.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,204,895 (hereinafter "the '895 patent"); and claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,341 (hereinafter "the '341 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,640 (hereinafter "the '640 patent"), either alone or in combination with at least one other reference.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, it is respectfully submitted that such a rejection is rendered moot by the amendment to those claims.

The rejections of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over (1) the '895 patent or (2) the '341 patent in view of the '640 patent, are also rendered moot by the amendments to claims 1 and 7. Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

a call processor for determining if the buffered series of digits matches a stored telephone number; and

a telephone line switch for directing an outgoing call to one of the first telephone line interface and the second telephone line interface based on an output of the call processor, wherein the call

processor further comprises a telephone number converter for converting the buffered series of digits from a first number, accessible by the first telephone line interface but not accessible via the second telephone line interface, to a second number, accessible via the first and second telephone line interfaces, such that the call processor directs the outgoing call to the second telephone line interface using the second number.

Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to recite:

directing an outgoing call to one of the first telephone line interface and the second telephone line interface based on an output of the determining step, wherein the step of determining further comprises converting the buffered series of digits from a first number, accessible by the first telephone line interface but not accessible via the second telephone line interface, to a second number, accessible via the first and second telephone line interfaces, such that the call processor directs the outgoing call to the second telephone line interface using the second number.

Such positively recited limitations are not taught by the cited references. By converting from a first number that is not accessible by a second telephone line interface (e.g., a voice over IP interface) to a second number that is accessible by the second telephone line interface and the first telephone line interface (e.g., the POTS interface), calls that would otherwise have been sent over the first interface (because they were not available via the second interface) are enabled to be sent over the second interface instead. As described in paragraph [0017] of the specification, this can increase the utilization of the second telephone line interface. Such a routing may also reduce contention for the first telephone line interface which may already be in use by another person (e.g., someone who is talking on a call using the POTS service).

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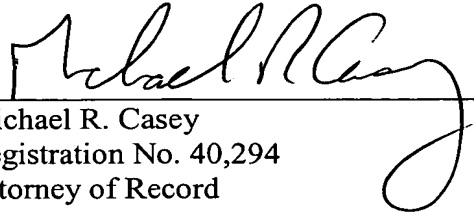
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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